

of mouth referrals. In 2011, Kathleen took a year off from the business for reflection after her foster mother passed away. She used the time to take a class at the University of Guam Small Business Development Center and began to make changes. Kathleen changed the name of the business and created a website for the business. She also sought out a long time event planner to be her mentor. In 2015, she began to see profits and she now employs 8 part time employees and purchases supplies from local companies. Additionally, Kathleen uses the knowledge and tools she has gained from the University of Guam's Small Business Development Center and the Pacific Island Network SBDC in her business and shares them with her employees and networks.

Kathleen is also an active member of our community. Inspired by her experience as a foster child from the age of 4 to 16, Kathleen is now the President of Guam Foster Families Association. Kathleen is also the Vice-President of Soroptimist International Guam working to transform the life of women and girls. She has also served as a board member of Payu-ta, Guam's umbrella organization of non-governmental organizations since 2011.

I join the people of Guam in congratulating Kathleen Thomas Benavente on her selection as the SBA's 2017 Home-Based Business Champion for Guam. I commend her for her many contributions to our island and community.

RECOGNIZING HALL COUNTY VETERANS

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize five residents of Hall County who left school to serve their nation in foreign wars and who have recently received honorary high school diplomas from the district. On March 27 at Gainesville First Baptist Church, Larry Dean Martin, Jimmy Arnold Thompson, James Curtis Reed, Lee M. Cain and Jerry Harold Peck received the diplomas they had previously sacrificed in order to fight for their county.

Hall County Schools Superintendent Will Schofield commended these men for contributing to a number of initiatives in the Hall County community, including handing out Constitutions and participating in an educational veteran graduation ceremony.

Mr. Martin and Mr. Thompson attended East Hall High School, Mr. Cain and Mr. Peck attended North Hall High School, and Mr. Reed attended Johnson High School. Mr. Cain served during WWII, while the other men all fought in Vietnam.

Although the many years have passed since their military service, Mr. Schofield says that the men are gratified to be recognized by their community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize these Georgians for their selfless service and their community involvement. They deserve our recognition and the diplomas that have been awarded to them because they chose to put others before themselves in our nation's time of need.

TAIWAN CAUCUS LETTER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 38th Anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), the pillar upon which our robust friendship with Taiwan stands.

The United States and Taiwan share the common interests and values of freedom, democracy, rule of laws, human rights and free market. Our security commitment has helped Taiwan become one of the most free and prosperous societies in the world. The United States enjoys cooperation with Taiwan on a broad range of concerns, including security, economic cooperation and development, global engagement, humanitarian relief, counterterrorism, people-to-people exchanges—and the list goes on. It is my firm belief that a strong and prosperous Taiwan will guarantee peace and prosperity in the region.

As we commemorate the 38th Anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, it is in the national interest of the United States to take decisive action to strengthen U.S.-Taiwan relations.

I also noticed that the President of the People's Republic of China, Xi Jinping is visiting the United States to visit with our President. It is my hope that the upcoming meeting is positive and constructive: U.S. engagement with the PRC is important to the peace and stability of the region. We should always hope and insist that the U.S.-Taiwan relations, and Taiwan's security and interests, are not in any way compromised.

Taiwan is a great friend of the United States. Taiwan is and will continue to be a friend of the United States.

RECOGNIZING JOHN ALBAN FINCH

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of John Alban Finch.

Fifty years ago today, on April 5, 1967, a fire broke out at Cornell Heights Residential Club, an off-campus student dormitory in Ithaca, New York. The fire claimed the lives of eight students and one professor from Cornell University.

Mr. Finch was the professor who perished in the fire. On the night of the tragedy, he immediately took action by awakening his neighbors in the building and calling the Cornell Safety Division. Despite heavy smoke, Mr. Finch ran back into the building to help other occupants escape to safety. A total of 62 people escaped the fire, many of whom attributed their survival to Mr. Finch's heroic and selfless actions. Tragically, Mr. Finch did not survive.

Mr. Finch gave his life to save those in need—the true definition of a hero.

Mr. Finch was an assistant professor and faculty advisor for the Ph.D. program at Cornell University. He originally came to Cornell in 1960 as a graduate student on a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship. Mr. Finch earned a master's degree in 1961 and a Ph.D. in 1964. The

following year, he began working as an Assistant Professor of English and an instructor in the English honors program. Mr. Finch was a distinguished scholar and highly valued faculty member.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of John Alban Finch and recognizing his lifelong commitment to serving others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed Roll Call vote numbers 209, 210, 211, 212, 213 and 214. Had I been present, I would have voted aye on votes 209, 210, 215 and 216. I would have voted nay on votes 211, 212, 213, and 214.

HONORING JOSEPH KOLB

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine, Joseph Kolb, a native Chicagoan, who is set to retire after a lengthy and illustrious career in law enforcement.

Mr. Kolb began his career in 1983 as a Deputy Sheriff with the Cook County Sheriff's Department. In 1987, Mr. Kolb began his federal government service career with the former United States Immigration & Naturalization Service (INS) and during his tenure was promoted to the rank of the Assistant Port Director for INS at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago, Illinois.

When Congress created the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in March of 2003, Mr. Kolb was selected by the U.S. Customs & Border Protection (CBP) Assistant Commissioner in Washington, D.C. as the interim Assistant Director for Immigration Policy and Programs at the Chicago Field Office. His vast knowledge of immigration law and policies combined with experienced leadership skills proved invaluable during the creation and implementation of the newly created agency.

Assigned as the Chief CBP Officer Program Manager for Admissibility Passenger and Programs, Mr. Kolb served as a subject matter expert, administering admissibility and immigration policy, managing and developing admissibility programs for the Chicago Field Office 12 state area.

He also performed the important role of liaison to the Foreign Consular Corp, Immigration Law Advocate groups, Community Based Organizations, U.S. Department of State, FBI, City of Chicago and Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties.

Later, Mr. Kolb was assigned to Washington, D.C. for CBP and DHS Headquarters to author and administer national immigration policy, as well as provide guidance to the field. This latter task involved contributing to a number of national programs along with writing recommendations to Congress regarding special projects.